

(Copy of long hand letter)

Southold, Long Island  
August 8, 1934

Dear Doctor Cushing:

Your letter of August 2 came last night. Your account of the project to start a National Institute of Neurology was new to me, and, so far as I know, did not have a traceable connection with the development at Montreal.

As I remember it there was first a request from Penfield and Martin, to which we were receptive since it represented a promising contribution to the advancement in North America of the study and treatment of diseases of the nervous system. Such study, as you may see from other grants made by the Foundation in the past five years, is a phase of medicine to which we have given financial aid in various ways.

Now this preference for the field of neurology and psychiatry may have derived in part from your earlier project but I should think it likely that both your project and our attitude were the result of the general conviction strongly corroborated by the war that these fields demand more effective measures both in point of study and treatment. You and Salmon had a lively influence in driving home this view, but not by any one project, so far as I know.

If you'll let me add a bit to this answer to your question? The more I see of men and things the more I think causes are but rarely single and simple. Thus it was not merely a request from Penfield and Martin coinciding with a special desire on our part to help neurology which decided the matter: there was a conviction that it is men that matter, especially in a new undertaking. I thought Penfield a good bet (and I think so now) and my colleagues agreed. I could wish that the end-result of your address would be a heightened appreciation of the meaning of persons: - of the importance of finding them, training them thoroughly, and backing them generously and thus liberating their energies. When institutions in this country hold these things to be their job I shall be in favor of institutions wholeheartedly. And not enough do.

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I saw Cairns, Oljenick and Olivecrona in their native haunts in June. All of them as abundantly appreciative of your example and friendship as ever.

With best regards,

(Signed) Alan Gregg

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